

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 186

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. FRIST) submitted the following resolution; which was ordered to be placed on the calendar

SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

- 1 Whereas the fiscal year 2000 Senate Budget Resolution
- 2 increased education funding by \$28,000,000,000 over
- 3 the next five years, and \$82,000,000,000 over the
- 4 next ten years, and the Department of Education re-
- 5 ceived a net increase of \$2,400,000,000 which doubles
- 6 the President's requested increase;
- 7 Whereas compared to the President's requested levels, the
- 8 Democratically controlled Congress' appropriations

1 for the period 1993 through 1995 reduced the Presi-
2 dent's funding requests by \$3,000,000,000, and since
3 Republicans took control of Congress, Federal edu-
4 cation funding has increased by 27 percent;

5 Whereas in the past three years, the Congress has in-
6 creased funding for Part B of Individuals with Dis-
7 abilities Education Act by nearly 80 percent, while the
8 Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget only re-
9 quested a 0.07 percent increase which is less than an
10 adjustment for inflation, and Congress is deeply con-
11 cerned that while the Administration has provided
12 rhetoric in support of education of the disabled, the
13 Administration's budget has consistently taken money
14 from this high priority program to fund new and un-
15 tested programs;

16 Whereas Congress is not only providing the necessary
17 funds, but is also reforming our current education
18 programs, and Congress recognizes that significant
19 reforms are needed in light of troubling statistics
20 indicating—

- 21 (1) 40 percent of fourth graders cannot read at
22 the most basic level;
- 23 (2) in international comparisons, United States
24 12th graders scored near the bottom in both mathe-
25 matics and science;

1 (3) 70 percent of children in high poverty
2 schools score below even the most basic level of read-
3 ing; and

4 (4) in mathematics, 9 year olds in high poverty
5 schools remain two grade levels behind students in
6 low poverty schools;

7 Whereas earlier in 1999, the 106th Congress took the first
8 step toward improving our Nation's schools by passing
9 the Education Flexibility and Partnership Act of
10 1999, which frees States and local communities to tai-
11 lor education programs to meet the individual needs
12 of students and local schools;

13 Whereas the 1999 reauthorization of the Elementary and
14 Secondary Education Act of 1965 will focus on in-
15 creasing student achievement by empowering prin-
16 cipals, local school boards, teachers and parents, and
17 the focus should be on raising the achievement of all
18 students;

19 Whereas Congress should reject a one-size-fits all ap-
20 proach to education, and local schools should have the
21 freedom to prioritize their spending and tailor their
22 curriculum according to the unique educational needs
23 of their children;

24 Whereas parents are the first and best educators of their
25 children, and Congress supports proposals that pro-

1 vide parents greater control to choose unique edu-
2 cational opportunities to best meet their children's
3 educational needs;

4 Whereas every child should have an exceptional teacher
5 in the classroom, and Congress supports efforts to re-
6 cruit, retrain, and retain high quality teachers;

7 Whereas quality instruction and learning can occur only
8 in a first class school that is safe and orderly;

9 Whereas Congress supports proposals that give schools the
10 support they need to protect teachers and students,
11 remove disruptive influences, and create a positive
12 learning atmosphere; and

13 Whereas success in education is best achieved when in-
14 struction focuses on basic academics and fundamental
15 skills, and students should no longer be subjected to
16 untried and untested educational theories of instruc-
17 tion, rather our Nation's efforts should be geared to
18 proven methods of instruction: Now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

20 (1) this Congress has taken strong steps to re-
21 form our Nation's educational system and allowed
22 States, local schools and parents more flexibility and
23 authority over their children's education; and

24 (2) the reauthorization of the Elementary and
25 Secondary Education Act of 1965 will enable this

- 1 Congress to continue its efforts to send decision
- 2 making back to States, local schools, and families.

